



BRIAN LEE
... Isthmian best

Blues' F.A. Cup reward

WYCOMBE Wanderers' remarkable run of consistency in the F.A. Cup has been rewarded by the Football Association in the coming season's competition.

Due to their record, Wanderers have gone straight into the first round proper of the F.A. Cup and therefore miss all four of the qualifying rounds. In recent seasons they have been exempted until the fourth qualifying stage.

Wanderers' consistency in the F.A. Cup goes back over the last four years when they have reached the second round every season. In 1975 they had their best ever run, eventually going out to Middlesbrough in the third round. By coming straight in at the first round stage this season, Wanderers join the Third and Fourth Division Football League clubs.

The only other club to receive exemption was Workington, whose place was taken by Wimbledon in the Fourth Division recently.

In contrast to Wycombe, local rivals Slough Town face the daunting prospect of a possible five matches before reaching the first round. The Rebels have a preliminary qualifying round to go through first of all when they have a difficult hurdle at Hillingdon Borough.

Dates for Wycombe's pre-season friendlies are: Sat Aug 6 — home to Bedford, Tues 9 — away to Witney, Sat 13 — home to Q.P.R. (Dave Clement testimonial).

Brian Lee calls for non-league reorganisation

A PLEA for the reorganisation of non-league football was made by Brian Lee, vice chairman of Wycombe Wanderers F.C. when he spoke to the club's annual meeting in the Loakes Park clubhouse on Thursday evening.

Mr Lee was answering a proposition from a young member Mr Ben Newton, who urged the club to set their sights on winning the world club championship.

In a lucid speech Mr Newton said that Wycombe's gates were declining because they have nothing else to win, having done it all before. We must go up. What the club really needs is League Division One football", he said.

He complained that the terrace at one end was badly in need of repair and urged the club to level their pitch. "There's no reason why we can't raise huge amounts of money to do those jobs," he added.

"We must have ambition and drive, and the time to do it is now."

In reply, Mr Lee, the former successful manager of the club, said he was proud that Wimbledon — an Isthmian League club by tradition — had got into the Football League. "But clubs have got to go via a certain route — and that is the Southern League," he said.

The Isthmian League, he stated, was a far better league than the Southern. "I can't see the Southern League enhanced with the addition to the ranks of clubs such as Aylesbury United — and I mean no disrespect to them."

FEEDER SYSTEM

"Non-league football needs to see a feeder system into the Southern League. The best league at the moment is the Northern Premier League

which has feeders."

In answer to the claim that the fans have nothing to look forward to in the Isthmian League, Mr Lee retorted, "In my opinion, it is better if we are successful at whatever level we are playing in, and there's not a better league than Isthmian in non-league circles."

The 120 members who attended the meeting learned of three significant changes for next season. Firstly the club have joined the Shaw and Kilburn Floodlight League, whose matches will be played in midweek. Other teams involved are Banbury, Aylesbury, Witney and Milton Keynes from the Southern League, and fellow Isthmians Chesham and Oxford City.

Secondly the club have appointed a physiotherapist. He is Ken Reed, who holds the F.A. treatment of injuries cer-

tificate, and has been active in local football in the Reading area.

NEW DIVISION

Thirdly the club will be playing in a new division next season. In accordance with other football leagues, the Isthmians have decided to call their three divisions Premier, First and Second. Wycombe, of course, will be in the Premier.

On the subject of the Isthmian League, Mr Lee announced that no single sponsor had been found to take over from Rothmans. He added that plans for multi sponsorship of the league would be announced shortly.

In his annual report, chairman Mr Reg Williams announced the pre-season tour to Italy, scheduled for August, had been cancelled because of

building work on changing accommodation at the proposed club.

The annual accounts showed that the club made a profit for the past year of more than £9,000. This was entirely due to the £16,000 donation from the Blues Development fund. Taking away this and other donations the club showed a deficit of £12,000.

Only one of last year's officers, treasurer Alf Ward failed to stand for re-election. He is succeeded by Mr Gerald Cox. Those elected to the committee were former members G. Plested and L. Wheeler and newcomer M. Prince.

Officers 1977/78: Patron — Frank Adams, president — M. E. Seymour, chairman — R. H. Williams, secretary — J. Goldworthy, treasurer — G. Cox, match secretary — C. Richardson, vice-chairman — B. R. Lee, committee — C. Avery, D. Carvell, R. Hart, G. Roberts, H. Wharton, R. Holt, G. Plested, L. Wheeler, M. Prince, manager — J. Reardon.

INSURANCE PLAN FOR SUPPORTERS

PLANS for embarking on an insurance scheme for their members, were announced by the Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Club at their annual meeting in the Loakes Park clubhouse on Wednesday evening.

Chairman Ron Butterfield said that for just five pence per head all members of both the Supporters and Blues clubs could be insured against accidental injuries, while travelling to and from matches in coaches laid on by the clubs.

The insurance also covers injuries sustained on the terraces at both home and away grounds. Members going by separate transport, however would not be covered. The club will pay the sum automatically, so that the members would not feel the slight loss. Mr Butterfield asked members present to spread the word about the scheme.

In his address Mr Butterfield congratulated the supporters on their behaviour on

the train hired for last season's match at Runcorn. "Although the result was not what they wanted, they were happy coming back," he added.

PROFIT

The subject of the Runcorn trains was brought up again when treasurer Mr Chris Richardson presented his accounts. He said the £526 profit on this trip and the £126 on the coach booking commission more than made up for slightly less profit on the tea bars and kiosks.

However, the main feature of the accounts was the £4,000 awarded to the parent Football Club in the form of grants. The

money went towards mending the roof of the Blues clubroom, erecting a physio room and repairing the road to the main entrance of the ground.

This was much appreciated by the football club chairman Reg Williams who said, "without your money we would have been in dire straits."

At the end of the meeting former chairman Ron Fisher and long time supporter Reg Johnson were elected life members.

Officers elected — president — J. Bayliss, chairman — R. Butterfield, secretary — A. Page, treasurer — C. Richardson, committee — F. Hanlon, Mrs J. Hanlon, P. Butterfield, P. Jemmett, Mrs M. Goddard, A. Gardner, D. Percy, Miss I. Fontaleki, M. Prince.